



A nest of Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* constructed on a tree

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Un nid du Picatharte à cou gris *Picathartes oreas* a été observé pour la première fois sur un arbre. Le nid en forme de coupe a été découvert début mars 1999, dans la zone du Projet Korup, Cameroun, sur un contrefort d'un grand *Piptadeniastrum*, à 1.5 m au-dessus du sol, près d'un petit ruisseau en forêt. Il mesurait 30 cm de long, 8 cm de large et 10 cm de hauteur; le bord extérieur était endommagé.



Figure 1. Nest of Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* on tree, CAFECO concession, Korup Project area, Cameroon (Matthias Waltert)

Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* is a restricted-range species, confined to the north-western Lower Guinea forest zone, between south-east Nigeria and north and central Gabon^{1,2}. Although elusive and not easy to observe, it is not uncommon in suitable rainforest habitat in Cameroon (R Demey pers comm). It usually breeds in small colonies, building its mud nest on the surface of overhanging rocks, caves and boulders^{2,5}. There is a single record of a nest within a hollow in a burnt-out log².

On 3 March 1999, in an unlogged part of the CAFECO concession, Korup Project area, Cameroon, we found a nest of this species attached to the buttress of a large *Piptadeniastrum* tree, 1.5 m above ground, near a small forest stream. The cup-shaped nest was 30 cm long, 8 cm wide and 10 cm high. The outer rim was damaged and some fibrous material was

noticeable. It was undoubtedly a picathartes nest: it looked exactly like those built on rock faces we had come across in the same area, where we found several colonies. According to locals, the bird was seen on the nest several weeks before and the breeding site was reported to have been in existence for years. This appears to be the first record of a nest of Grey-necked Picathartes built on a tree.

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